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ABSTRACT

This booklet describes the work of the Alaska Women's Commission, a state agency dedicated to the achievement of equal legal, economic, social, and political status for women in Alaska. Since its inception, the Alaska Women's Commission has provided funding for regional women's conferences in rural parts of the state. The document describes four commission-funded community women's conferences held in 1986. The booklet includes excerpts from the four final conference reports, summaries of each conference agenda, and recommendations from the conferences. Workshops at the conferences included discussions on the following women's issues: employment; education; Native women as political leaders; Native women and family structures; domestic violence; sexual abuse; alcohol/drug abuse; homicide/suicide; Native women and spiritual values; divorce; single parenting; the criminal justice system; stress management; Native women's health issues; Native women and traditional culture; federal programs, and the role of the church in society. The first conference--held in Bethel, Alaska, March 1986--involved several regional women's organizations and had a theme of "Family Spirit." Recommendations from that conference called for more information and education regarding women's issues. Participants at another conference, in Huslia, created and approved 17 resolutions, which are listed in the document. The theme of the conference in Sitka was "The Challenge: Building the Spirit of Unity." Women at the Sitka conference approved 11 resolutions supporting various women's groups and government programs. The fourth 1986 conference was held in Wasilla, with the theme of "Empowerment through Knowledge." The document lists all 17 conferences supported by the Alaska Women's Commission from 1983 through 1986. (TES)

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ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
REGIONAL CONFERENCES
1986

Report Prepared by
CHRISTINE CALLAHAN

Acknowledgments

The Alaska Women's Commission wishes to thank the following community members for serving on the Regional Conference Review Committee:

PATT KAY	*Anchorage Community Development Corporation*
PAULA RASMUS-DEDE	*Alaska Native Leadership Program*
JANA VARRATI	*Alaska Women's Lobby*

Cover photo: Rob Stapleton RURALCAP Photo

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Rob Stapleton RURALCAP photo.

INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Women's Commission is dedicated to the achievement of equal legal, economic, social and political status for women in Alaska.

Established by the Legislature in 1978, the Commission was reaffirmed and renewed in 1983 by the Legislature and the Governor.

It is the only state agency exclusively concentrating on ensuring women's equality through the establishment of a solid data base to demonstrate women's true economic status; by spearheading legislative reform; and through an educational component providing an extensive array of publications and conferences to women across the state.

Since its inception, the Alaska Women's Commission has provided funding for regional women's conferences in rural parts of the state. Rural women, whose needs and problems are often unique, generally lack access to conferences because of Alaskan geography and the vast distances which must be traveled. Members of the Commission believe that an emphasis must be placed on conferences that involve rural women in leadership roles. These meetings can help establish or strengthen local women's networks. They provide a forum for rural women to discuss their common concerns. They also provide rural women with an opportunity to make recommendations for improving their status to the Alaska Women's Commission and other state policymakers.

Rural and regional conferences have been sponsored by the Commission since 1979 in an effort to reach all the women of the state. Seventeen projects* have been funded in rural and bush communities throughout Alaska in areas such as Bethel, Hoonah, Kotzebue, Galena, Barrow, Kodiak and Huslia. Several conferences designed to address specific cultural or ethnic groups within urban areas such as Anchorage and Fairbanks have also been supported.

All groups selected to receive Commission funding are required to demonstrate that their efforts represent a geographic, ethnic, age and interest cross section of the women in their region. Groups offering the conferences must encourage participation from Native Sisterhoods, local women's councils, church women, political organizations, women's resource centers, service organizations, civic, professional or other women's groups. Co-sponsorship by any number of local organizations or groups is encouraged.

In FY 86, the Alaska Women's Commission provided Regional Conference grants to four Alaskan communities; Bethel, Huslia, Sitka and Wasilla. The activities of each of these regional conferences have been summarized by the individual coordinators in final conference reports. Excerpts from their reports are included here, along with summaries of their agendas and recommendations.

**A list of all regional conferences supported by the Commission is included in Appendix A.*

BETHEL

Regional Women's Conference
Bethel, Alaska
March 13, 14, 15, 1986

ILAKUTELLRIIT — FAMILY SPIRIT

"There were several Bethel organizations involved in the idea of having a regional conference. Two of these organizations were the Native Women of Calista and Tundra Women's Coalition, who had co-sponsored a regional conference in Bethel in October, 1980. Both groups' members had wanted to sponsor another and in 1984, at its annual membership meeting, Tundra Women's Coalition was directed to plan and sponsor a regional conference as a goal for the upcoming year. Another organization which became involved was the Delta Association for the Education of Young Children, which planned training sessions for preschool aides and teachers to coincide with the conference. The Bethel Community Services, formerly Bethel Social Services, acted as the pass-through organization for the Delta Association for the Education of Young Children's grant funds received from the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs. The Tundra Women's Coalition was the pass-through organization for funds from the Alaska Women's Commission.

"Enhancement of healthy families through communication, self-help and information on how to solve a problem, whether professional, personal or legal, was stressed. The knowledge gained during the conference could help participants in two of many different ways: it could give a basic understanding of problem solving, and it could provide a nonparticipant with that gained knowledge through information sharing.

"The Planning Committee initially met monthly to plan and outline the conference and then started meeting weekly. The Planning Committee sent out workshop proposal forms on a statewide basis. Conference announcements were mailed to villages in the region using all available organizations' assistance in getting a mailing list together. Each village received at least three announcements: one to the village council president, a health aide, and a teacher. There was limited input from village residents due to the meeting frequency and travel expense. Input from the Delta Association for the Education of Young Children was great—one Child Development Associate class was offered during the conference. Kuskokwim Community College also offered a one-credit class covering the whole conference.

"The Planning Committee hired two people, Pam Torbico and Bing Santamour, to share the conference coordinator position. The coordinators were successful in requesting local and statewide airlines to donate airfare for two of the four keynote speakers. One keynote speaker arranged her schedule to be in Bethel and the other was a local person. There were but three travel scholarships awarded as participants had travel arrangements in place. The rest of the presenters were local people—there were 11 out-of-area presenters. The conference had seven sessions with four to five presentations going simultaneously. The total of 17 presentations included nine panels whose members ranged from three to five in number.

"There were 140 registered conference participants. Of these, there were two cases in which registration was for a regular college class member to attend."

REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Bethel, Alaska
March 13, 14, 15, 1986

ILAKUTELLRIIT — FAMILY SPIRIT

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

CLARA KELLEY Former Director, Southwestern Alaska Council for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse	FAMILY COMMUNICATION TRADITIONAL AND MODERN
BERTHA CAMPBELL Educator, New York Department of Education	FAMILY COMMUNICATION STYLES
PAUL ONGTOOGUK High School Teacher, Kotzebue	1991 AND ITS EFFECT ON FAMILIES
DR. MICHAEL KRAUSE	THE FUTURE OF THE YUPIK LANGUAGE

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

HEALTH & HYGIENE IN THE CHILD CARE SETTING	Kathe Bouchas Assistant Manager and Program Supervisor, Center for Child Development, Providence Hospital, Anchorage
CREATING FAMILY	Sandra Kleven Counselor-Consultant, Bethel
FAMILY SEXUALITY	Shirley Moss Planning Educator, MCH/Family Planning, Bethel

CO-DEPENDENCY AND SELF-HELP GROUPS	Blanche Jacobs, Gail Wilson Adoph Lewis
COMMUNICATION STYLES: TWO DIFFERENT CULTURES	Bridget/Dennis Kline; Cecilia/Mike Martz; Bethel Residents
1991 AND ITS EFFECT ON FAMILIES	Paul Ongtooguk High School Teacher, Kotzebue
WOMEN IN LOCAL POLITICS	PANEL: Marge Bainton, Anna Phillip, Gloria Simeon, Evelyn Thomas
DEVELOPING A RESOURCE CENTER FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN: WHO, WHAT, WHY	L. Diane Worley Executive Director, Resource Center for Parents & Children, Fairbanks
TROUBLED FAMILIES AND COMMUNICATION	Sylvia Elliott Executive Director, Tundra Women's Coalition, Bethel
PAINTING A PICTURE OF MYSELF	Bonnie Kittredge Training Coordinator, Ruralcap Headstart, Anchorage
	Susan Oshida Education Coordinator, Yukon-Kuskokwim Parent Child Program, Bethel
IMPACT OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ON WOMEN & FAMILES	Cookie Guinn Counselor-Coordinator, Southwestern Alaska Council for Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Bethel
SURVIVAL DURING THE REAGAN YEARS: FAMILY PROTECTION ACT	Beverly Buddrius Acting Education Director, Kuskokwim Native Association, Aniak
UPTIGHT AIN'T RIGHT	Pat Barker Cooperative Extension Home Economist, Bethel
TRADITIONAL & MODERN MEDICINE	Dr. Henry Brown
INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT	PANEL: Paul Shanley, Tony Vaska, Dorothy Aloysius Dan Branch
HOW TO USE THE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW	Jeanne Fortier Investigator, Alaska State Human Rights Commission, Anchorage
CHANGING ROLES OF MEN & WOMEN IN WORK AND CULTURE	Diane Carpenter Instructor, Kuskokwim Community College, Bethel
CONFLICT BETWEEN ELDERS & YOUTH	PANEL: Matt Beans, Anesia Hoover, Rachel Imgalrea, Charlie Charlie
SINGLE PARENTING ISSUES	PANEL: Gloria Simeon, Nastasia Markham, Bill Bivins, Margaret Chaney
FAMILY DAYCARE HOMES	Carolyn Touvinen Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Child Care Division, Anchorage
1983 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STUDY FINDINGS	Mary Pete Board Member, Tundra Women's Coalition
WOMEN'S ISSUES & THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH	PANEL: Father Hargraves, Jayne Barker, Yvis Welch, Cheryl Andrews
PARENT/TEENAGE COMMUNICATION	Mikell Murphy Special Education Teacher, Service High School, Anchorage
SEPARATION & LOSS OF FAMILY MEMBERS	Phyllis Ryan, Durt Vitt, Matt Beans

INFANT/CHILD MASSAGE: LOVING THROUGH TOUCH	Kathe Boucha Assistant Manager, Program Supervisor, Center for Child Development, Providence Hospital, Anchorage
KEEPING AND TEACHING PEACE	Bonnie Kittredge Training Coordinator, Ruralcap Headstart, Anchorage Susan Oshida, Education Coordinator, Yukon-Kuskokwim Parent Child Program, Bethel
LEGAL ISSUES FOR PARENTS TODAY: DIVORCE, CUSTODY, ADOPTION	PANEL: Chris Cook, Mark Andrew, Karen Kirby
CONCERNED, INVOLVED AND SHY	Bing Santamour Bethel
GOOD NUTRITION FOR FAMILIES ON THE RUN	Pat Barker Cooperative Extension Home Economist, Bethel
MANAGING STRESS IN THE FAMILY	Mikell Murphy Special Education Teacher, Service High School, Anchorage
SETTING UP SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS (LATCHKEY)	Ms. Lare Child Care Administrator Department of Community & Regional Affairs, Anchorage
APPROACHING LEARNING DISABILITIES THROUGH MUSIC	Gail Holmes Special Education Teacher

REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Bethel, Alaska

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **"Family" is still a women's issue, and violence is still an issue in families.**
- **The community needs to be informed about the Indian Child Welfare Act, licensed family day care requirements and benefits, and coordination of after school activities.**
- **There should be more attention paid to the role of the church in working with families and with women.**
- **Alcoholism education and treatment for the families of alcoholics need to be supported.**

HUSLIA

RURAL ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
HUSLIA, ALASKA
APRIL 25, 26, & 27, 1986

Ninety-three people from 10 villages attended the first Rural Alaska Native Women's Conference in Huslia, Alaska. Galena, Hughes, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyokuk, Kotzebue, Minto, Nulato, Ruby and Tanana were all represented. Women from Fairbanks and Anchorage participated as well.

Excerpts from the reports submitted by the conference moderators follow.

"The women's conference began at 7:30, Friday night, April 25, with a general assembly after the covered-dish supper at the community hall. The moderators for the evening called the meeting to order after an opening prayer. Women who participated in planning the conference were introduced. We also introduced Marie Green, our keynote speaker who is president of Maniilaq Corporation in Kotzebue, Alaska. She in turn introduced all the visitors from Kotzebue. We then went around the hall and introduced everyone at the conference.

"Marie Green emphasized the importance of communication and participation, and the willpower between all people involved (everyone in the village in this case). Everyone must be involved and interested in the project (or whatever it may be) to be able to work and communicate together. For instance, to control our alcohol problems in the villages, everyone must participate and support the program in order for it to work.

"This isn't concerning only alcohol problems. The local school system in the villages should be run or controlled by local people instead of outsiders. If we want control over what our children are to learn we have to start from a local level and speak out for what we want for our children. Whatever it may be we have to get involved and participate totally. These were the important points of Marie Green's speech.

"On April 26th at 9:00 am, we gathered at the community hall and started the morning session with the education panel. All the women on the panel talked about how they had to struggle to finish their higher education, and they urged the students now in higher education to continue and eventually teach our own Native students. There was a question and answer period after the panel discussion.

"After lunch, we had three concurrent sessions held at different places in the community. At the hall we had 'Women in Employment' with Betty Esmailka going over an employment survey she did in Galena. She used this as an overall consensus on how Native Women in rural areas are working outside the home more, and the men are seeing this as a way to help bring money into the household. Another speaker was Dee Hoffman, who talked about employment on the local level and the state level. She also mentioned the decline in the price of oil and how it's affecting both rural residents and urban residents.

"Another session was 'Women as Political Leaders,' and this was held at the city office. The spokesperson was Marie Green, who talked about how she as a Native woman had to struggle to get where she is today. She is president of Kotzebue's Native Corporation. She also mentioned the importance of Native women in rural-situated jobs. Out of the session there were two resolutions on women as political leaders.

"The third session was held at the school on 'Women and Family Structures.' Clara Johnson held the session and there was a long emotional discussion on children who are given to non-Natives and leave the rural setting and never know where they came from or who their ancestors are. Out of the session came four resolutions on women and family structures.

"All three concurrent sessions were very important to the Native women who attended. Many women said this was the first time they had ever discussed their personal problems with anyone. Many who attended mentioned they wanted another Native women's conference held in another rural area. One thing that stood out was how much knowledge our Native elders have and how once they started talking, they passed on to all who attended their past experiences; and, in one way or another, we as Native women are all affected.

"On Sunday morning the meeting was called to order. Guest speaker Anna Frank, an ordained priest and a counselor, said a short prayer. The moderators for the day announced that if anyone wanted to say anything at any time they may do so; we always left the floor open.

"We were all there for the same reason: to try to find solutions to our problems.

"The issues that we discussed that morning were domestic violence, sexual abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, homicide and suicide.

"A lot of women spoke at this time and expressed the feeling that when you overuse alcohol, you will have a lot of problems.

"Many of the women that were at the conference have associated with each other in various other meetings so we all more or less knew each other. By giving examples of homicides, suicides, sexual abuse, wife abuse and alcohol/drug abuse, each of us understood what that meant, because we have all experienced the loss of so many of our young people from alcohol abuse."

Seventeen resolutions were passed by the participants at the Huslia Women's Conference. They are included on the following pages.

RURAL ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

HUSLIA, ALASKA
APRIL 25, 26, 27 1986

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

MARIE GREEN
President, Maniilaq Corporation
Kotzebue, Alaska

COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION ON THE VILLAGE LEVEL

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION	Panel Discussion
WOMEN AND EMPLOYMENT	Betty Esmailka Dee Olin Hoffman
NATIVE WOMEN AS POLITICAL LEADERS	Marie Green Georgianna Lincoln
NATIVE WOMEN AND FAMILY STRUCTURES	Clara Johnson Esther Curtis Barbara Curtis
WOMEN AND SOCIAL ISSUES: **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** **SEXUAL ABUSE** **ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE** **HOMICIDE/SUICIDE**	Elsie Adams Karlene John
NATIVE WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES	Sonia Vent Rose Ambrose
NATIVE WOMEN AND TRADITIONAL CULTURE	Catherine Attla Eliza Jones
NATIVE WOMEN AND SPIRITUAL VALUES	Anna Frank

REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

HUSLIA, ALASKA

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #86-01

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

Whereas the problems created by alcohol and drug abuse are confined to each individual rural village; and,

Whereas we are geographically isolated from each village which limits informative and helpful advice, which could be shared between rural villages; and,

Whereas we need to share these problems so that the end result would be supporting each other upon recognition of these problems involving alcohol and drug abuse in our communities; and,

Whereas if a community has an effective program it could be shared with the surrounding villages by network facilities;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Rural Women's Conference requests the organization of networking programs be made available to rural Native communities on issues involving alcohol and drug abuse.

Be it further resolved that these networking programs consist of telephone audio-conferences, newsletters, organized meetings, teleconferences and any other means of public communications.

RESOLUTION #86-02

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

Whereas rural Alaska has access to state-of-the-art telecommunications; and,

Whereas alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs use the public service announcements, video, and audio tapes;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Rural Women's Conference requests that there be Native testimony of Native talking to Native about alcoholism and drug abuse problems and preventative measures.

RESOLUTION #86-03

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Whereas there are increased responsibilities in non-profit and profit corporations; and,

Whereas our students are our future leaders; and,

Whereas the decisions made affect the Natives and their communities;

Now therefore be it resolved that leadership skills be taught in schools K thru 12.

And be it further resolved that it be incorporated in the school curriculum and that workshops be provided.

RESOLUTION #86-04

WOMEN LEADERS

Whereas it isn't part of our culture to be assertive; and,

Whereas more women are being elected in leadership positions; and,

Whereas it is a necessity to have assertive skills in order to be effective;

Now therefore be it resolved that funding be secured to have more leadership workshops on assertive skills for Native women.

RESOLUTION #86-05

SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS

Whereas 1986 will have drastic higher education cuts affecting rural Alaskan students; and,

Whereas contact with the instructor and the student through audio conference is a major factor in the learning process; and,

Whereas the percentage of rural students going on to a higher education continues to be minute, and the decrease of funding will reduce the percentage even further; and,

Whereas Native students cannot depend on their profit corporations for support and funding; and,

Whereas rural employment is extremely limited and most students don't have other resources for financial support;

Now therefore be it resolved that the state continue the current level of funding for all Alaska state students through loans and grant progams for higher education.

And be it further resolved that the University of Alaska continue financial support of the audio conference program.

RESOLUTION #86-06

NATIVE CHILDREN

Whereas Native children who are in non-Native homes do not know their culture; and,

Whereas Native children who are adopted to non-Natives should know the truth about who they are; and,

Whereas traditional adoptions tell the child who he/she is and where they came from;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Rural Women's Conference endorses opening the Alaska State Adoption Laws to allow the child access to their real family when they turn eighteen years old.

RESOLUTION #86-07

NATIVE CULTURAL AWARENESS

Whereas state social workers do not have Native cultural training, appreciation and knowledge before working with a Native child and family; and,

Whereas the State of Alaska has few Native social workers; and,

Whereas the State of Alaska does contract home studies and adoption studies to others who do not have Alaska Native cultural training or Native staff;

Now therefore be it resolved by the Rural Women's Conference that anyone who does a home study or an adoption study shall have the training and sensitivity and understanding to work with Alaska Natives or to contract directly with Native organizations to do the studies.

RESOLUTION #86-08

NATIVE FOSTER HOMES

Whereas Native families are needed as foster parents; and,

Whereas Native children in foster care need Native foster families; and,

Whereas there are not enough Alaska Native workers doing foster care home studies;

Now therefore be it resolved that any Native family considering becoming a foster parent be allowed the option that a home study be done by an Alaska Native or contracted to a Native organization.

RESOLUTION #86-09

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Whereas potential higher education students often have difficulty in locating resources for higher education; and,

Whereas a commitment to our people is made by our Native organizations annually through their resolutions; and,

Whereas no central resource center on information for grants, loans, and scholarships now exists;

Now therefore be it resolved that Tanana Chiefs Conference become the resource center for all financial aid available.

And be it further resolved that this information be disseminated to the Doyon Region in a timely fashion to all councils, school districts, corporations, newsletters, and subregional offices.

RESOLUTION #86-10

CHILD ABUSE

Whereas child sexual and physical abuse cases have greatly escalated within the past decade; and,

Whereas numerous cases are not being reported due to fear of children being permanently removed, and families being ostracized from the community; and,

Whereas these increasing cases are breaking up individual families and communities; and,

Whereas children are our most important resource; and,

Whereas this is one of our top priorities;

Now therefore be it resolved that in consideration of the budget constraints, funding be secured for a village counselor in communities of over 65 people and that the Doyon Region be funded for a pilot program.

And be it further resolved that state laws on child sexual abuse be revised to mandate all service providers dealing with children to report any case of child abuse.

RESOLUTION #86-11

TRIBAL COURTS

Whereas family violence is overlooked by the communities and service providers; and,

Whereas the present laws are not being exercised to their extent; and,

Whereas increased families suffer emotional and physical damage; and,

Whereas children of the abusers are growing up to repeat the cycle; and,

Whereas Tribal Courts are not being used to their full extent;

Now therefore be it resolved that the state recognize the Tribal Court System for resolving local offenses.

And be it further resolved that the state recognize and give authority to the Tribal Court System.

RESOLUTION #86-12

HIGHER EDUCATION

Whereas basic reading, math and writing skills are very poor when graduating from high school; and,

Whereas there are not enough scholarship programs available for rural area education major students; and,

Whereas education majors need support from the beginning of their schooling not near graduation; and,

Whereas rural students are unprepared for the cultural differences and need to learn self discipline to complete their education;

Now therefore be it resolved that students interested in education majors coming into college be encouraged and supported by the education department and their unique needs be addressed immediately.

And be it further resolved that the Rural Women's Conference find it no longer acceptable to graduate students unprepared for higher education.

RESOLUTION #86-13

NATIVE TEACHERS

Whereas Native teachers can relate to the students' way of life, environment, culture and traditions; and,

Whereas student academic scores have risen with Native teachers and instructors; and,

Whereas there is better communication between the community residents and the school system;

Now therefore be it resolved that the school districts recruit and hire Native instructors, teachers, administrators, and school counselors.

RESOLUTION #86-14

CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Whereas it is not enough to ask for federal and state grant monies and expect them to cure our local problems; and,

Whereas it is not enough to ask for institutional support of agencies who are presently facing drastic cutbacks; and,

Whereas it is not enough to expect the village employees and volunteers to do it on their own;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Rural Women's Conference requests that all rural villages be asked to provide more constructive activities that will enhance the spiritual, cultural, physical and economic well-being of their community.

RESOLUTION #86-15

SUICIDE

Whereas suicides have increased dramatically in recent years; and,

Whereas the suicide age is dropping to our very young; and,

Whereas these senseless deaths have a genocidal effect on the well-being of the community; and,

Whereas we will no longer tolerate the high loss of Native lives, due to a lack of sensitive prevention and treatment programs;

Now therefore be it resolved that a crisis line be established regionally for rural emotional needs.

And be it further resolved that the Rural Women's Conference requests the State Department of Health and Social Services, Federal Department of Health and Human Services to provide monetary and institutional support.

RESOLUTION #86-16

NATIVE CHILDREN

Whereas Indian Child Welfare Act funds were eliminated for all the Doyon Region; and,

Whereas this was the only contact between the non-profit and the state of Alaska Division of Family and Youth Services for child custody cases; and,

Whereas Alaska Native children continue to be placed in non-Native foster homes and non-Native adoption homes;

Now therefore be it resolved that when any Native child is taken into state custody or for adoption, that the child's extended family and the non-profit for that region be notified.

RESOLUTION #86-17

PART-TIME STUDENTS

Whereas a number of full-time students are parents; and,

Whereas the rural cost of living is considerably higher than our urban counterpart; and,

Whereas rural students also hold various positions within the community; and,

Whereas only students carrying 12 or more credits are eligible for grants, loans or scholarships;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Rural Women's Conference endorses six credits or more as constituting a full-time status for funding purposes for rural students.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF APRIL 1986 BY THE RURAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

SITKA

REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
SITKA, ALASKA
APRIL 18, 19, 20, 1986

THE CHALLENGE: BUILDING THE SPIRIT OF UNITY

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

"A get-acquainted reception at Sheldon Jackson Museum was well attended by conference participants. Many people remarked that the museum was a beautiful place for a gathering. Seventy-five to 100 people enjoyed the salad-bar dinner in the Sheldon Jackson cafeteria. Entertainment by J. Althea provided much singing, clapping and toe-tapping."

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

"A full day of workshops and resolution writing.

"One hundred twenty-two people took part in the conference. This included people who attended just the workshops, just the banquet or both. Because the Sitka Women's Council felt strongly that it was important to have region-wide representation, one half of the the Alaska Women's Commission grant monies were used for travel scholarships. The criteria for selection included having as many different communities as possible represented. Thirteen women from Petersburg, Port Alexander, Angoon, Yakutat, Juneau and Ketchikan were provided with travel scholarships.

"A breakdown of general conference attendance by towns is as follows:

Petersburg	8 (2 travel scholarships)
Juneau	19 (4 travel scholarships)
Ketchikan	8 (4 travel scholarships)
Yakutat	2 (1 travel scholarship)
Port Alexander	1 (1 travel scholarship)
Angoon	1 (1 travel scholarship)
Anchorage	2
California	1

The balance of the 122 participants were from Sitka.

"One hundred dollars were budgeted for registration scholarships for local Sitka women. When the Council received word from Alaska Airlines that a travel grant had been awarded for the full price of our keynote speaker's fare, we added the amount of that fare to the registration scholarship fund. Twenty-four women were assisted to attend the conference in this way.

"We really underestimated how long it would take to get the resolutions ready. One council member skipped the banquet entirely to work on the resolutions.

"The banquet speaker was the high point of the conference for many participants. Dr. Margaret Steward spoke on the characteristics of a gift, based on the work of Lewis Hyde, with wonderful examples from her own experience.

"Conference participants gave a standing ovation to Elizabeth Howard, who was presented an award for her outstanding service to the community through her work with senior citizens."

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

" 'Bread and Roses' was the theme of Kathy Hendricks' talk at the spiritual fellowship on Sunday morning. She told the women to be sure to take time to nurture themselves.

"In summary, eight Alaskan communities were represented at the Regional Women's Conference in Sitka. Twenty workshops were offered to 122 participants and conference evaluations indicated that people were generally pleased with the overall effort. Eleven resolutions were passed by the group on Sunday, three of them unanimously.

"The resolution process turned out to be longer and more intense than expected. It was a challenge to get through all of the material and still make sure everyone had a chance to express their view. Final resolutions are included in the report."

Minority reports on several of the resolutions are available.

The Sitka Women's Council took fast action on Resolution #86-05, supporting the Teenage Pregnancy Conference. They raised close to $650 to enable a public health nurse from Sitka to attend the conference in Fairbanks. She, in turn, prepared a full report on the Fairbanks Conference and is providing this information to community groups and individuals in Sitka.

REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

SITKA, ALASKA
APRIL 18, 19, 20, 1986

THE CHALLENGE: BUILDING THE SPIRIT OF UNITY

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

DR. MARGARET STEWARD
Psychologist from University of California at Davis

WOMEN, SELF-ESTEEM AND FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY	Debra Gilbreath Sitka Women's Council
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT	Vickie Mitchell Caseworker, Department of Revenue
WOMEN RUNNING FOR OFFICE	Alice Johnstone Sandi Hicks Shirley McCoy Kim Johnson-Bogart Judy Dahl Jodi Mettler
COMMUNICATING WITH TEENS	Marilyn George Denise Perlich Aleeta Bauder Isaac Williams Launa Lackey
HOW TO START A WOMEN'S COUNCIL	Betty Ramage, Chair Alaska Women's Commission
COPING WITH STRESS, PMS AND MENOPAUSE	Cathy Cuenin, Nancy Eliason Lynda Williamson
PAY EQUITY AND COMPARABLE WORTH: Alaska State Classification Study	Janet Jaron, Research Consultant Department of Personnel
RAISING THE SELF-ESTEEM OF HOMEMAKERS	Sally Pate, Home Extension Agent University of Alaska, Juneau

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ANGER IN THE FAMILY: **FEELING BLUE AFTER SEEING RED**	Michael Boyd Baranof Mental Health Clinic
LIFE EXPERIENCE: **CREDITS TOWARD COLLEGE**	Mary Goff, Registrar Sheldon Jackson College
PAY EQUITY AND COMPARABLE WORTH: **The Conservative Perspective**	Margaret Leavitt, Aide to Senator Edna Devries
SPRINGING THE TIME TRAP: **TIME MANAGEMENT**	Marcia Strand Alaska Homemakers Association
HOW TO TALK TO YOUR BANKER: **LOANS, CREDIT AND FINANCES**	Norma Novcoski Alaska Federal Savings & Loan
TEACHING PERSONAL SAFETY **TO CHILDREN**	Becky Taylor Sitkans Against Family Violence
FAMILIES IN THE 80's	PANEL: Dr. Margaret Steward Evelyn Bonner Carol Greenough
LOBBYING FROM YOUR KITCHEN TABLE	Susan Clark Alaska Women's Lobby

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FILMS

Why Not a Woman	*Nobody's Victim II*
Women in Politics	*Science: Woman's Work*
With Babies & Banners	*Clara Barton—"Angel of the Battlefield"*
Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter	*Women of the Alaska Territory*

RESOLUTIONS

REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
SITKA WOMEN'S COUNCIL

RESOLUTION #86-01
ESTABLISH PMS AND MENOPAUSE SUPPORT GROUPS IN SITKA

Whereas 80% of women in the population experience symptions of Pre-Menstrual Syndrome (PMS); and,

Whereas all women experience experience menopause;

Therefore be it resolved that participants of the Southeast Regional Women's Conference recommend that there be both a PMS support group and a menopause support group established in Sitka.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Unanimous Consent

RESOLUTION #86-02
RESOURCE GUIDE

Whereas the Sitka Women's Conference requires for dissemination to individuals, women's social and civic agencies and to relevant organizations a comprehensive resource guide for services to women; and,

Whereas present resource information is not comprehensive or timely;

Therefore be it resolved that the Sitka Women's Council through a special task force appointed by the S.W.C. President, research funding availability for the preparation of a resource guide suitable to the above needs, and,

Be it further resolved that the resource guide task force coordinate this effort with appropriate information gathering and dissemination resources.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Unanimous Consent

RESOLUTION #86-03
DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

Whereas women who work at home provide a valuable community service as nurturers and volunteers; and,

Whereas many women have chosen homemaking or homeparenting as a career; and,

Whereas due to death or severe illness or disability of a spouse or due to divorce, separation or economic necessity homemakers often need additional training to prepare them for employment; and,

Whereas the Displaced Homemaker Program has aided women in crisis and enabled them to become self-supporting for themselves and their children;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Regional Women's Conference support the funding for the Displaced Homemaker's Program.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Do Pass 51
Do Not Pass 23

RESOLUTION #86-04
SUPPORT FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF LEGISLATURE

Whereas Juneau is the state center of government and is isolated from other areas of the state; and,

Whereas citizens in other areas of the state need to know information pertaining to state government;

Therefore be it resolved that participants at the Southeast Regional Women's Conference urge continued legislative support for media coverage of legislative sessions.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Unanimous Consent

RESOLUTION # 86-05
STATE OF ALASKA TEENAGE PREGNANCY CONFERENCE

Whereas teenage pregnancy is a growing problem, which affects our most valuable resource, our children and families;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Regional Women's Conference heartily support the State of Alaska Teenage Pregnancy Conference which is to be held in Fairbanks, May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1986.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Do Pass 57
Do Not Pass 23

RESOLUTION #86-06
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Whereas Child Support Enforcement has become a state and national disaster with less than 50% of custodial parents receiving *any* child support payments at all; and,

Whereas the poverty level of the U.S. by the year 2000 will consist primarily of women and children if current trends continue; and,

Whereas women consistently have lower standards of living when divorced; and,

Whereas judges and magistrates have requested a consistent, standard formula for figuring child support payments, and the Child Support Enforcement Commission included such a realistic figure in their recommendations to the governor now being reviewed by the Court System Adminstrators;

Therefore be it resolved that the participants of the Southeast Regional Women's Conference and our constituents endorse and support the recommendations made by the Child Support Enforcement Commission.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Do Pass 53
Do Not Pass 18

RESOLUTION #86-07

ALASKA CLASSIFICATON STUDY

Whereas the National Academy of Science has determined that the more an occupation is dominated by women the less it pays; and,

Whereas 80% of all working women are segregated into 20 occupations, and those occupations are sex segregated with the majority of the workers being women; and,

Whereas at least 18 states have undertaken or are implementing the results of job classification studies; and,

Whereas the State of Alaska has completed its job classification study;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Regional Women's Conference support implementation of the classification study by the pasage of HB 676.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Do Pass 46
Do Not Pass 25

RESOLUTION #86-08

OPPOSING SENATE BILL 483

Whereas certain services to families, needy individuals and organizations are proposed for drastic curtailment or abolition by S.B. 483 including but not limited to A.S. 47.90, displaced homemakers; A.S. 44.47.305 (d), education and training grants or contracts for child care employees and administrators; A.S. 44.19.165-44.19.180, Alaska Women's Commission; A.S. 14.36.010-14.36.070, Community Schools Program; A.S. 44.19.441-44.19.449, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Regional Women's Conference is categorically opposed to S.B. 483, and strongly urges that funding and support for state programs that reduce stress for families be continued.

Be it further resolved that appropriate representatives and members of the Senate, and the Governor of Alaska receive copies of this resolution immediately.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Do Pass 46
Do Not Pass 19

RESOLUTION #86-09

SUPPORT THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Whereas the Alaska Women's Commission's budget has been deleted in the Senate version of the 1987 budget and has been precariously cut by the House of Representatives' budget; and,

Whereas the Alaska Women's Commission is the only State agency exclusively concentrating on trying to ensure Alaskan women's equality; and,

Whereas the Alaska Women's Commission has worked since 1984 to educate, inform and support Alaskan women by publishing over 10,000 each handbooks on *Alaskan Women's Legal Rights*, and *Names, Notes and Quotes: A Profile of Alaskan Women*, and over 5,000 copies each of Factsheets on Education, Pensions, Insurance, and Politics, and a *Directory of Women's Organizations*, plus numerous other statistical and research data; and,

Whereas the Alaska Women's Commission personally assisted over 2,800 women in just the past two years alone with advocacy and educational issues, information and referral; and,

Whereas new Senate Bill #493 introduced April 17, 1986, suspends the Alaska Women's Commission until 1988; and,

Whereas it took over eight years to get the first State Women's Commission through the legislature;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Southeast Regional Women's Conference participants from Yakutat to Ketchikan and our constituents request the Governor of Alaska, the Alaska State Senate and the Alaska State House of Representatives fully fund the Alaska Women's Commisssion and by doing so keep our only agency in existence for women, educating, advocating and supporting all women in Alaska.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Do Pass 46
Do Not Pass 16

RESOLUTION #86-10

SUPPORT SITKA WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Whereas issues that impact women in Alaska should be discussed and acted upon by women at the local level; and,

Whereas the Sitka Women's Council represents a broad range of interest, life experience, economic and marital status and ethnic groups; and,

Whereas the Sitka Women's Council's effort is to improve the social status of Alaskan women in the areas of education, homemaking, employment and labor, and health;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Regional Women's Conference endorse and support the Sitka Women's Council's effort.

Be it further resolved that the Sitka City and Borough continue endorsement and support of the Sitka Women's Council.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Do Pass 46
Do Not Pass 4

RESOLUTION #88-11

SUPPORT CIVIL RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT

Whereas the Civil Rights Restoration Act includes four major prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age, sex, color, national origin or disability in federally assisted programs; and,

Whereas the civil rights laws have governed the conscience of our land effectively for over a decade; and,

Whereas fifteen years ago few colleges and universities offered athletic scholarships to women, but by 1984 over ten thousand women were on scholarships resulting in the Olympic Gold Medal win of the United States Women's Basketball team; and,

Whereas eleven years ago few disabled people were visible in our society because they were prevented from leaving their homes or institutions by extensive physical and attitudinal barriers and today these barriers have been greatly reduced; and,

Whereas the 1984 restricted Supreme Court ruling, Grove City College vs. Bell, dramatically narrows the coverage of civil rights laws reversing years of previous enforcement practiced by both Republican and Democratic administrations; and,

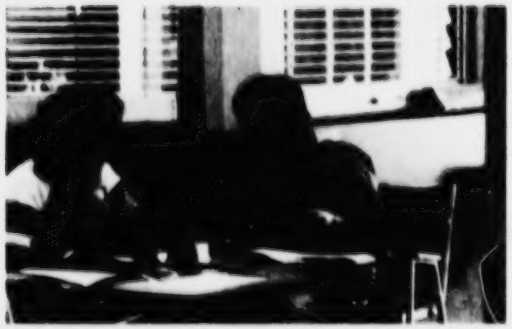
Whereas the disabled, elderly, minorities and women may not file a complaint against an institution receiving federal aid unless alleged discrimination took place in the single department that received funds;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Regional Women's Conference support the passage of the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985/86.

CONFERENCE ACTION: Do Pass 38
Do Not Pass 20

ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF APRIL 1986,

Sarah L. Jordan
Coke Oines



VALLEY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

WASILLA, ALASKA
APRIL 26,1986

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

"The Valley Women's Conference sponsored by the Alaska Women's Commission, the Valley Women's Resource Center, the Denali Business and Professional Women's Club, and Women and Children's Health Associates, was held on Saturday, April 26, 1986, at Pioneer Peak Elementary School on Trunk Road at the Palmer-Wasilla Highway. Conference coordinator was Joyce Ballard, assisted by Pauline Hooten. Leslie Bogda, director of the Valley Women's Resource Center, was the emcee. The conference's main speakers were: Cecilia "Pudge" Kleinkauf and Dr. carolyn Brown.

"The Conference was a success with over 50 women attending. Participants were provided with a selection of twelve workshops designed to provide them with a full range of information. Topics covered jobs and money, health and exercise, and personal and social problems and where to look for help.

"Lunch was provided by the Spruce Hens and Gold Dusters Clubs. Child care was provided by First Baptist Church of Wasilla Youth Group.

"After the workshops were completed, there was a round table discussion moderated by Jean Brown-Moiser of the Denali Business and Professional Women's Club. Serving on the panel were Suzanne Lombardi, member, Alaska Women's Commission; Kathy Kruger, Business and Professional Women's Club; Dr. carolyn Brown; and Carolyn Covington of the Board of Directors of the Valley Women's Resource Center.

"To the delight of the co-sponsors of this event, conference revenues resulted in a surplus of funds. As a result, $750 has been earmarked to provide a limited number of scholarship grants to students who need financial assistance for tuition at Matanuska-Susitna Community College. The grants will be available to students who need assistance with tuition for:

1) job related skills for current job, courses needed to obtain a job, or refresher courses;
2) women's studies; and/or
3) a few credit hours needed to finish a degree.

"A press release is being prepared to announce the scholarship grants. The Valley Women's Resource Center and Mat-Su Community College will be posting the information on their bulletin boards. After the Community College receives the completed applications, they will be turned over to the Women's Resource Center Committee for final selection of the candidates."

VALLEY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

WASILLA, ALASKA
APRIL 26,1986

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

CECILIA M. "Pudge" KLEINKAUF MSW, ACSW; Legislative Lobbyist	EMPOWERMENT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE
CAROLYN BROWN, M.D. Private Practice, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Palmer, Alaska	TAKING CARE OF YOU

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

FINANCIAL PLANNING	Jean Brown-Moiser District Assistant Manager, Equitable Financial Services
WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY	Carolyn Rios
THINKING: HANDLE WITH CARE:	Christian Conference Speaker
ENTERING THE JOB MARKET	Jill Cunningham Instructor, Human Resource Company
DIVORCE	Ken Fallon, MSW, ACSW Private Practice, Family and Children's Clinic, Palmer, Alaska
EXERCISE AND DIET	Mikki Stevens Instructor, Aerobics and Dance
STRESS MANAGEMENT	Darlene Romer Independent Consultant, BISTA Associates
CAREER PLANNING AND RESUMES	Susannah Raney Certified Personnel Consultant AES Employment Service
SINGLE PARENTING	Sherry Patterson House Manager, Margaret House
ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE	Fran Sedovic Clinical Supervisor, Mat-Su Council on the Prevention of Alcoholism and Child Abuse
	Gloria Penrose Counselor, Mat-Su Council on the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND WOMEN: OFFENDERS AND VICTIMS	Patricia Heffernan Attorney, Private Practice, Wasilla, Alaska
THE OTHER SIDE OF HOUSEPLANTS AND LIGHT GARDENING FOR THE AMATEUR	Patrice Meneghelli Master Gardener, Cooperative Extension Services
I NEED HELP: WHERE DO I START?	Patsy Turner Client Service Coordinator, Valley Women's Resource Center

CLOSING

More than four hundred rural women participated in regional conferences sponsored by the Alaska Women's Commission in 1986. Each community and each conference was unique. At some conferences there were formal resolutions adopted and provided to local and state policy makers, as well as to the Commission. At others, workshops and keynote addresses formed the primary focus of the event. Some conferences dedicated large portions of their grant from the Alaska Women's Commission to travel and registration scholalships in order to encourage out-of-town participation. Others tapped community resources and generated contributions from local businesses to assist and encourage widespread participation.

As unique as each conference was, there were essential elements common to all. They all involved rural women in positions of leadership. Each one dealt with issues and topics that were important to the women in the local area. And each event identified capable, knowledgeable women to serve as resources to others on issues such as education, local control, health and human services, employment, and the challenges and difficulties of cultural transition.

The Alaska Women's Commission is proud of the accomplishments of the talented and resourceful women of this state. Through events such as Regional Women's Conferences and many other Commission activities, the status of all women will be enhanced and improved.

APPENDIX A

REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCES SUPPORTED BY THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

1. Alaska Native Women's Statewide Convention, May, 1979
2. Voices of Black Women in Alaska, December, 1979
3. First Regional Women's Conference, Bethel, October 1980
4. Status and Problems of Asian-American Women in Alaska, November 1980
5. Women and Poverty Conference, September 1980
6. Alaska Native Women's Statewide Convention, May 1981
7. Hoonah Regional Women's Conference, September 1981
8. NANA Regional Women's Conference, Kotzebue, September 1981
9. Kenai-Soldotna Regional Women's Conference, October 1981
10. Interior and Northern Native Women's Conference
    Fairbanks, July 1981
    Galena, November 1981
11. Arctic Slope Regional Women's Conference, Barrow, April 1982
12. Southeast Alaska Regional Women's Leadership Conference, March 1983
13. Kodiak Regional Women's Conference, October 1983
14. Bethel Regional Women's Conference, March 1986
15. Huslia Women's Regional Conference, April 1986
16. Sitka Women's Regional Conference, April 1986
17. Wasilla Women's Regional Conference, April 1986

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
3601 "C" STREET, SUITE 742
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503
907/561-4227

Members of Commission:
Betty Ramage, chair
Anchorage
Kris Chatfield, vice chair
Anchorage
Pat Berkley, Anchorage
Charlotte Brower, Barrow
Marcia Johnson, Sitka
Elizabeth (Pat) Kennedy, Anchorage
Suzanne Lombardi, Wasilla
Agnes Nichols, Cordova
Mary Pete, Bethel
Wendy Redman, Fairbanks

Executive Director
Kathy Marshall

State of Alaska
Bill Sheffield, Governor
Stephen McAlpine, Lt. Governor